

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6, 8 and 10-13 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended. The title and specification have been amended.

The specification was objected to for informalities on page 5, line 22. This informality has been corrected and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 12-13 were objected to because of an informality. This informality has been corrected by amendment, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection has been overcome by amendment.

Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long, U.S. Patent 5,239,472, in view of Schmidt, German Patent 1,237,612. In light of the foregoing amendments, this rejection is moot.

Claims 5 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claims. Since claims 5 and 10 are the only independent claims remaining, and the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims, Applicant requests that all outstanding rejections and objections be withdrawn.

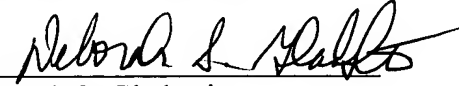
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122023000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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